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AGAINST CONVENTION

Florida's Noted Jurist, A. E. Maxwell,

WRITES FULLY ON SUBJECT

His Question is as Important as Capital Removal.

Chipley, Fla., Oct. 11, 1900.—Hon. Geo. P. Rancy, Dear Sir: I see in the papers many articles and communications against the removal of the Capital from Tallahassee, but very few against the call for a State Constitutional Convention. Why is this? It seems to me that the latter is quite as important a matter as the former. Both proposals came from the same source, and the circumstances of their origin show, that the chief promoters of both had in mind the double chance of accomplishing their main object of removal. If the call for a Convention fails, an amendment to the Constitution for the purpose, then resort is to be had to a Constitutional Convention; and if the amendment fails, then the Convention would accomplish their purpose, while a three-fifths vote of the legislature would be required to accomplish it, through an amendment to the Constitution. In this view the Convention scheme should be more alarming, to those who oppose removal of the Capital, than the amendment scheme.

Another view on the same line, is that the most important reasons against the removal apply with equal force, with more force against the call of a convention—more because of the additional large expense to the people of holding the Convention. One of these reasons, is the absence of any expressed desire or demand of any large portion of the people for a Convention, or any open manifestation whatever on their part of a desire for one. The scheme is sprung upon them by promoters who do not care to await the usual prompting—known public needs with known general desire to meet them, known public evils, that beget a general voice for remedy. Neither of these is ostensible to justify the call for a Convention. It is, indeed, not at all a people's movement; and is incredible that they should not have moved, if there are needs and evils so heavily upon them, as to require the intervention of a new Constitution.

Another reason applicable alike to Capital-removal and Convention, is the great expense. Judging from the figures of the Convention of 1885 we will require between \$60,000 and \$100,000 to defray the expenses of the Convention proposed now. And this is to be added to the amount required to build a new Capitol—not likely to be less than a half-million, if not more. As the people are already complaining of burdensome taxes, that would seem to be a complaint more legitimately demanding the attention of the promoters of these costly schemes. Supposing the complaint a just one, it is much more defiant than wise, to fling into their faces these schemes to increase their burden—or any scheme unless the need overpowers the hardship. Ask them what is the need for a convention? If not for Capital removal (which the promoters are trying to effect by amendment of the present Constitution) then for what? There has been much cry for the election of County Commissioners by the people, instead of appointment by the Governor. But that is met by amendment by the legislature, which is to be voted on at the coming election. Another amendment called for, relates to the Supreme Court. The condition of the business of that Court is such as to require some sort of relief, which can only be given by an amendment of the Constitution, that will impart greater efficiency than is possible under its present numerical organization. And this so far as I have heard or seen, is the only really important matter agitated for the work of amendments, though there are other amendments spoken of that have comparatively little importance, certainly not enough to suggest necessity for a Convention. With only these matters to act on, it would be monstrous to tax the people the huge sum a Convention would cost merely to condone the shortcomings of the legislature, which can and ought to act, whenever such work is needed.

The provision in our present Constitution for amending it, is a safe and ample one, guarding against uncalculated action and precipitate changes, (notably shown in the removal proceedings of the last legislature) yet vesting the legislature with sufficient power to make needed amendments, to be approved by a majority vote of the people. This method renders a Constitutional Convention an unnecessary resort, as every change the people want can be had, if the legislators duly perform their duty. The very fact, that, not content with this, two schemes are put forth to do what either can do without the other, and that the greatly enlarged expense involved necessitating further heavy taxation, seems utterly disregarded by the promoters, condemns both, as originating in a spirit thoughtless of the interests of the tax-payers of the State. I hope enough voters will be forthcoming at the primaries, to show their disapproval, and prevent unnecessary taxation for unnecessary purposes.

In dealing with the Constitution two rules should govern at all times—1st. Any change or addition within the province of the legislature should be left to the legislature. 2nd. There should be no Constitutional Convention unless the legislature per se refuses to do, or what it clearly ought to do, unless extraordinary occasion arises for action of the whole people through a Convention.

Yours truly,
A. E. MAXWELL.

Constitutional Convention.

The last Democratic State Convention ordered that the primary election, to be held on November 6, should decide among other things whether or not we should have a Constitutional Convention. This question is one that deserves very serious consideration. The Convention made it a party issue, but we learn of very little that is being said about it. What will be the voice of Santa Rosa's Democracy.—Milton Index.

Why treat it with the same consideration you do with the Capital removal. Kill them so dead that they will not be resurrected until the people of the State are better able and the necessity greater than now exists. Those two propositions, that of Capital removal and Constitutional Convention, are twins, prematurely conceived and brought forth before their time, and out of season. They are entitled, however, to a decent burial on the sixth of November. We will vote on them out of respect to the honorable body of gentlemen, composing our State convention: We appreciate the great sacrifice they made in the interest of the State, and the noble work they performed, in nominating and bringing before the people such noble men to fill the various State offices, while we feel, that they made a mistake in bringing and forcing two measures before the people at an unpropitious time; a time when the people were unprepared to decide as their expediency. The people of Florida want to do what is right, ready to bear any legitimate and necessary burdens. One thing they do know, that is that they are paying as much taxes as they can bear. Now to add the enormous burden of removal of Capital and the holding of a Constitutional Convention is an unjust demand and should, and in the writer's candid opinion will, be voted down. In the name of common sense, what do we want with a Constitutional Convention? Is it at all likely that a nobler or abler set of patriotic gentlemen could be chosen as delegates to a Constitutional Convention in this our day than composed the Convention in 1885? We doubt it very much. Is it at all likely, that a better organic law would be formed than the one we are now living under? We doubt it very much.

Our legislatures amend our Constitution, through the people at the polls, whenever the time and expediency demand it, and at comparatively no cost, hence what is the need of a convention at a cost of \$75,000 or \$100,000? Let us vote it down. Think for a moment of the great burden proposed to be laid upon the devoted necks of the tax-payers of the candidate places, for a new Capital. Where is the reason or justice of such imposition? If, indeed, the Capital should be removed, the burden should fall equally on the whole people—not upon the good people of Gainesville, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Ocala or Tallahassee. Let us vote it down; and when the people of Florida, in their good judgment, desire to remove their Capital let them, not a

few politicians, move in the matter and put it where their good judgment may dictate, and not allow any town or place to put up a bonus and flood the State with orators, endeavoring to sway and distract the minds of the people. These are the writer's honest sentiments simply expressed for what they are worth.

F. A. HENDRY,
of Lee county.

Died,
On Monday, October 11, Mrs. Lucy R. Sills, the widow of the late Solomon Sills, at her residence in the northern part of the county. Mrs. Sills was about 76 years of age, and was held in great esteem and greatly loved by all who knew her. She was buried from Mt. Pisgah church, near Centerville, in the family lot. She leaves six children, Messrs. John, Walter, L. R., W. D., E. D., and Miss Lucy Sills, besides many grandchildren, who have the sympathies of the whole community in their bereavement.

James B. Whitfield.
The following well-deserved compliment of State Treasurer, Hon. James B. Whitfield, appears in the Green Cove Spring:

"Among the several excellent nominations made by the State Democratic Committee, that of Judge Whitfield, our efficient State Treasurer, gives general satisfaction to the people of Florida, a fact that will be evident on November 6th.

Judge Whitfield is the right man in the right place, and his administration of this responsible trust merits universal approval."

Obituary.

The unseen angel has again visited our circle and borne away to the bright beyond, a sweet little girl of eleven summers. Maud Page, daughter of B. F. and Mrs. N. C. Page, died at the residence of her father, at Woodville, October the 10th, 1900. She was born May the 6th, 1889, and was therefore eleven years and five months old. Little Maud was ever dutiful to her parents, and it is there the stroke falls the heaviest. She has gone from us, but not lost. She will be missed from the fireside, from the social circle, from the school room. We all knew her only to love her, but Jesus loved her more, and while it is our loss, it is her eternal gain. Then father, mother, brothers and sisters mourn no more; Maud has made her bed in the skies and her pillow on the Savior's breast.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved ones, and say to them the Master's will be done.

Little Maud is gone to a world
Where resting is unknown,
A long eternity of love
Formed for the good alone,
And faith behind the dying here,
Translated to that glorious sphere,
As morning, high and higher, shines
To us pure and perfect day.

There we know she will be happy,
And will always want to stay,
She will love to hear the singing,
She will love to look at Jesus,
And will love Him more and more,
And will gather water lilies
For the Angel at the door.

UNCLE TOM.

Little "Sun Beams."

The "Sun Beams" Circle, consisting of twelve little girls, are busy sewing each Saturday morning, hoping to have a nice table of fancy work for the bazaar to be given by the King's Daughters on December 14, 1900. Any scraps of silk, wool goods, ribbons, etc., will be acceptable and very much appreciated by the Circle. Any scraps to be contributed, if they are sent to Miss Elizabeth Pearce, will be given to the Circle. The little Circle is very much interested in the King's Daughters Hospital work, and they are working to help them. We ought all to try to help and encourage these little people, for it is a noble work.

No Good to Tax-payers.

We have read the report of the speech delivered in Tampa recently by the Hon. Frank Clark, on the subject of moving the Capital of Florida to Jacksonville. We have calmly considered every argument he makes as to why this removal should be accomplished, yet we fail to discover one single reason for the tax-paying citizens going in debt to the tune of, from one to four million dollars, to gratify this whim. Mr. Clark forgets that a Capitol is not for show, but as a place where laws are made. Is there anything wrong with the laws of Florida? Would they be any better if made in a marble palace? He says: "Place the Capital in Jacksonville, where the visitor, as he enters the State may get an inviting idea of the riches and attractions that lie beyond." Will the visitor's ideas one way or the other, benefit the masses who pay the taxes? We think not.—Quincy Herald.

Press Comments on Hon. Fred. T. Myers' Speech in Behalf of Tallahassee.

Last week Jacksonville's claims for State Capital honors, were presented to the people of this community by Messrs. McNamee and Hartridge and this week pretty much the same audience heard the other side of the story, told in an unassuming but masterly manner by the Hon. Fred. T. Myers, of Tallahassee, ex-president of the Florida State Senate and prominent among the candidates, before the last State Democratic convention for gubernatorial honors.

This distinguished gentleman addressed the people of Ft. Myers Monday evening, and returning arrived here on Tuesday afternoon's steamer. He has many staunch friends in Punta Gorda, a committee of whom, representing the Punta Gorda Democratic club, met the steamer and escorted Mr. Myers to Hotel Dade.

In McAdow hall at 7:30 o'clock, under the auspices of the local club, the speaker addressed a representative audience, the ladies especially being in evidence.

Mr. Myers first gave in detail the history of all efforts to remove the Capital from Tallahassee. Only a few attempts had been made, and in each instance, the project was promoted by some member of the legislature representing counties in which are located cities that aspire to Capital honors. The people of the State—any considerable number of them—had never commanded that a new location should be determined upon. He gave assurance that the present Capitol building was adequate for all purposes; that it was probably the most substantial structure in the State today, and that no complaint was ever heard from the worthy gentlemen who occupied it.

The speaker dwelt upon the heavy expense incident to the removal of the Capital. Judging from the Jacksonville orators' glowing description of the new State House that should be erected on the banks of the St. Johns, Capital removal would cost, ere the bonds were finally paid, the enormous sum of \$2,000,000.

In 1877 the bonded indebtedness of the State was \$1,488,800. Since that time—nearly a quarter of a century—the indebtedness was reduced only \$356,300, leaving a bonded indebtedness at present of \$1,032,500. In view of the great disaster which befell the State a few years ago, when millions of dollars worth of property was totally destroyed in a single night, the speaker did not believe that the tax-payers would now care to assume additional indebtedness of such great magnitude.

As to Jacksonville offering to contribute \$100,000, or one-twentieth of the probable expense, there was nothing binding in the proposition, and the tax-payers of that municipality, already having a bonded indebtedness nearly equal to that of the entire State, could ill afford to increase their indebtedness.

The address throughout was a plain recital of facts, and had the effect of winning a strong support for Tallahassee in the Capital contest. Mr. Myers left Wednesday afternoon for Arcadia, where he addressed the people of that vicinity Wednesday night.—Punta Gorda Herald.

Vote Against It.

Every Democrat in Florida should be careful to not only vote against Capital removal, but to also register a ballot against the calling of a Constitutional Convention. The present State Constitution, like the present Capital, is good enough for the people of Florida. A Constitutional Convention would cost the tax-payers thousands of dollars, when there is no demand and no occasion for it. If there is anything wrong with the present Constitution, the defect can be remedied by an amendment without one cent expense to the tax-payers. The following, from the Monticello Constitution on this subject is timely and worthy of careful perusal: "The question of calling for a Constitutional Convention is to be submitted to the people of Florida in the coming State primary. The principal object of those who had such a provision inserted in the platform was and is to get another opportunity to move the State Capital, in case the people vote against Capital removal in the primary. We believe the people of the State will vote against calling a Constitutional Convention, for there is absolutely no need for another Convention. It would be a useless piece of extravagance.

But the fact that those favoring Capital removal, had such a provision put in the platform, shows how

utterly regardless they are of the interests of the people of Florida, at large. They would willingly saddle an expense of \$100,000 or more on the people with no other object in view, and for no other purpose, than to simply get another opportunity to move the Capital.

"Capital removal organs in the State are keeping suspiciously quiet on this question of calling a Constitutional Convention, for they know if the matter be thoroughly discussed the people will vote against it, and they have a faint hope that if nothing be said about it, the voters when they go to the polls to cast their ballots, not having considered the matter, might vote in the affirmative.

"Let every voter in the State consider this matter, and when the times come to vote, put in his ballot against or opposed to calling a Constitutional Convention."—Pensacola Press.

Married.

Mr. T. E. Andrews, of this city, and Miss Annie Vause, of Apalachicola, were quietly married at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tucker, in Apalachicola, on Sunday, the 14th inst., only a few friends being present. The newly married couple returned to this city on Monday, where they will reside in the future. Mr. Andrews at one time held a position in the TALLAHASSEEAN office, which he resigned to accept his present one with the Southern Express Co. The TALLAHASSEEAN extends to them its congratulations and wishes them a happy married life.

Tallahassee Orange Blossoms.

Resolved, first, That, as God, in his providence has seen fit to take from our midst one of our members, Mattie McKinnon, that we bow in humble submission to His will knowing that "He doeth all things well."

Second, That, we each one of us strive to meet her "on the other shore."

Third, That, we deeply sympathize with the bereaved family.

Fourth, That, these resolutions be inscribed on our minutes, a copy be sent to the family, and one to the TALLAHASSEEAN for publication.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARE BOWEN,
FRANK CARTER
GWYTH MCCORD.

Death of Mrs. Gilbert Williams.

At an early hour this morning, one of the sweetest and most lovable young lives, that has ever been passed in this community, passed to its Heavenly home when Mrs. Virgie Quail Williams, wife of Dr. Gilbert Williams, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Quail, expired after a long and exhausting struggle, with a complicated form of fever.

Mrs. Williams was about twenty-seven years of age, and had spent her entire life in this, her native city. In her school-girl days and as a young lady, she was admired and beloved by a large circle of friends, and when she was happily married two years ago and became the queen of a lovely and devoted home, her friends became, if possible, even more attached to her. Her life was a very happy one, and her genial, thoughtful and considerate manner, made her a favorite with all with whom she came in contact. Her marriage with Dr. Gilbert Williams, formerly of Jacksonville, but now of this city, brought additional joy and satisfaction into this bright and cheerful young life, and the sadly brief period of her wedded life was a continued honeymoon.

The sympathy of the entire community goes out in fullest measure to the bereaved husband and parents.

B. and L. Meeting—New Officers Elected.

The Leon County Building and Loan Association met, at the court house, Tuesday evening, October 15, at 7:30 o'clock, as provided by the Constitution, Julius Ball, Vice-president, presiding. The following officers were elected for the coming year: H. V. R. Schrader, President; Julius Ball, Vice-president; Geo. W. Saxon, Treasurer; B. B. Wilson, Secretary; E. G. Chesley, R. B. Carpenter, J. G. Collins, Howard Gamble, C. B. Gwynn, Directors.

Notices for the retirement of 33 shares of stock, owned by several parties, were given.

On motion, it was agreed that the Board of Directors meet at the office of the Treasurer-elect.

The meeting then adjourned.

The roof of Mr. Howard Gamble's residence caught fire this afternoon but, was soon put out.

BRYAN SURE TO WIN

So Says Hon. Jno. S. Beard Who has been Speaking

IN THE WESTERN STATES.

Judge J. R. Challen of Jacksonville Also Certain of Bryan's Election.

Hon. Jno. S. Beard, a native of Tallahassee, who some years since moved to Pensacola, and who is a nominee on the Democratic ticket for Florida Presidential Elector, has recently returned to his home in Pensacola, from a tour in Ohio and Illinois where he has been making speeches with national campaigners. Mr. Beard returns enthusiastic in the belief that Bryan will be elected.

We note also that Judge J. R. Challen, of Jacksonville, is also certain that Bryan will be elected. Judge Challen was at one time a Florida State Senator from Duval county. He has been a Republican all his life and has recently returned from a trip through several of the Middle Western States. From what he saw on that trip he is convinced that Bryan will win in the coming election. He says: "I was in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, besides my own State. Everywhere, I found a strong Bryan sentiment among a number of hitherto Republicans and my observation was that the Democratic party is absolutely a unit. In Ohio, some of the strongest friends of President McKinley are even fearful that he will lose his own State; and many Republicans who supported him in 1896 are opposed to his Philippine policy, and, in the great crisis that his policy has precipitated, they are apt to stand by their convictions. They regard it as a serious proposition, where party affiliation, should be at least temporarily laid aside, for the purpose of preserving the integrity of our free institutions.

"I found this same sentiment in the other States in what is generally regarded the storm center." In all of these Central Western States, of course there is a big German vote. Heretofore the vote has been largely divided, with a strong Republican element. I find that this vote is almost solidly opposed to McKinley's administration. These people are desperately in earnest, and to those not acquainted with their strong opposition to militarism, the result of the German vote, in November, will be a surprise.

Notice.

A directors' meeting of the Building and Loan Association is called to meet Friday afternoon at 4 p. m., at the Capital City Bank. All the directors are requested to be present. By order of the President, H. V. R. Schrader.

Vote It Down.

I see that, none of the papers are referring at all to the question of voting for a Constitutional Convention. It has been only twelve or thirteen years since the Democrats called such a convention. If such a one is called now, we are responsible for the unnecessary expenses attached to it, and for the free admission that we could not make a Constitution, when we had the chance. The present Constitution has been amended to about suit the wants of the State. If a new one is made, the parties who attend it will make the Constitution which will have to be amended, as often as the present one has been. I trust that the Democrats will vote down the proposition. I cannot conceive of any reason for such a movement.

I notice that, some members of the State Executive Committee are agitating the Capital removal question. This question is dividing the Democracy of the State. When Senator Chipley, who was chairman of the State Executive Committee, divided the Democracy with his fight on Senator Call, he, resigned his position on the Executive Committee. ALBERT W. GILCHRIST.
Punta Gorda, Oct. 6.
—Times-Union and Citizen.

How Are Your Nerves?

If they are weak and you feel nervous and easily "frustrated," can't sleep, and rise in the morning unrefreshed, your blood is poor. Strong nerves depend upon rich, nourishing blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes the nerves strong by enriching and vitalizing the blood. It gives sweet, refreshing sleep and completely cures nervous troubles. Begin taking it today.

Nausea, indigestion are cured by Hood's Pills.